

June 5, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4205

The Honorable Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1314

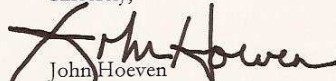
Dear Senator Frist and Speaker Hastert:


As Governors of states with vital farming and ranching industries, we sincerely appreciate the inclusion of emergency agriculture assistance money in the 2006 emergency supplemental appropriations currently being considered by Congress. As the bill is considered in conference committee, we urge you to retain the funds that will help provide critical help for our country's agriculture producers who have been impacted by drought, flooding and other natural disasters.


The need for agricultural assistance is urgent and real, and we urge you to target the assistance to producers who have suffered the losses and need help in order to sustain their operations. It is essential that a relief package be approved in a timely manner and is tailored to meet disaster-related losses of the farmers and ranchers who need it the most.

Senator Frist and Speaker Hastert, this is a challenging time for our farmers and ranchers. We appreciate assistance that has been provided in previous years for agriculture producers during their struggles with extreme weather. We urge the conference committee to approve the funding necessary to help producers through this agriculture disaster. The negative impact of these crop losses will be felt across each of our state economies, and federal help for producers is crucial. We appreciate your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
John Hoeven  
Governor of North Dakota

  
Mike Rounds  
Governor of South Dakota

  
Tim Pawlenty  
Governor of Minnesota

cc: Chairman Thad Cochran  
Chairman C.W. Bill Young